

## Gallery hosts senior art major exhibition



Photo by Kaeti Hinck

John Shrader works on a painting during class with Tom Shields.

BY KAETI HINCK  
MIRROR VARIETY EDITOR

Tonight, senior art majors will celebrate their exhibit during a reception at the Eide/Dalrymple Gallery. The reception is open to the public free of charge and will run from 7-9 p.m.

The exhibit, which went up on April 25, showcases work from all of the current seniors in the art program.

"I am honored to have a show with peers that I respect as artists," senior John Shrader said. "Even those who I don't think are that good have a decent showing and don't bring down the show at all."

Shrader cited professor emeritus Carl Grupp as a major influence on his art.

"Carl was my first drawing instructor and showed me the joys of working with pen," Shrader said. "I had never thought of drawing in pen before, but drawing with pen has improved my confidence in all media."

Senior Andre VanderVelde also referenced Augustana's art faculty as being influential to his progress.

"Steve Thomas has been a really big influence on me," VanderVelde said. "He kind of

breaks things down to you fundamentally and encourages you, yet he's really real with you, as well. If your stuff's not right, he's going to tell you. It's good to have that honesty."

Being an art major comes with certain challenges.

"It is unfortunate that as a whole, an art major is relatively easy to get through, so there is great potential for nincompoops that don't belong in college at all to disgrace the art department," Shrader said. "It's easier to obtain respect from professors than fellow students, probably because most students think the purpose of going to college is to find a job in the field of study right away."

Along with earning the respect of fellow students, art majors have had personal battles to face.

"I've learned a ton about myself, about how far I can push myself," VanderVelde said. "I know what it takes for me to be really good."

Students have learned not only about themselves, but have also been equipped with fundamental lessons necessary in the world of art.

"I was never really a patient

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### KAUR FM 89.1

Augustana College Radio  
Top Ten

1. ISLANDS  
Return to the Sea
2. YEAH YEAH  
YEAHS  
Show Your Bones
3. BUILT TO SPILL  
You in Reverse
4. MOGWAI  
Mr. Beast
5. MATES OF STATE  
Bring It Back
6. SWEARING AT  
MOTORISTS  
Last Night Becomes...
7. APPLESEED CAST  
Peregrine
8. BAND OF  
HORSES  
Everything All the Time
9. ROCKY  
VOTOLATO  
Makers
10. SHE WANTS  
REVENGE  
S/T

## Amateur Night brings students into spotlight

BY KAETI HINCK  
MIRROR VARIETY EDITOR

Augustana students will show off their talent tonight at 7 p.m. in the Back Alley at UBG's Amateur Night.

Ten student acts will present a variety of different performances. According to UBG coffeehouse co-governor Chris Fry, acts will include bands, solo artists (similar to the traditional music the coffeehouse has brought in), DJs, poetry and rap.

"With this event, Amy [Weber] and I wish to showcase Augustana's students many talents and interests and expand the UBG Coffeehouse into some new genres," Fry said. "More importantly, we hope to create an event that people with a wide variety interests can come watch friends and fellow students while getting exposed to something different."

Sophomore Jon Runyan will be per-

forming original rap songs.

"Normally UBG Coffeehouse invites in an acoustic guitar player or two, because that is the traditional coffeehouse setting," Runyan said. "This event has an array of musical genres, and the performers are all students."

Freshman Johanna Snow will be DJing for the event.

"This event is unique because it gives the opportunity for students to share their talents in a slightly different way than the Varieties show allows," Snow said. "This way it's more of an open mic session where students can really show their colors and let loose their talents for the rest of the students to see."

As there are no auditions, Amateur Night allows any students who want to participate to be involved.

"It lets students who may be shy about their talent to show off some-

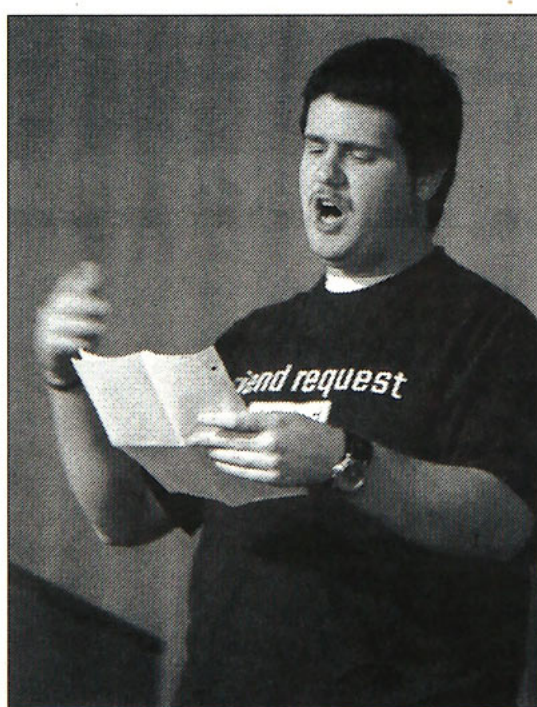


Photo by Kaeti Hinck

Jon Runyan raps for the Augustana Band during their 2006 tour. Runyan is one of 10 acts that will perform at Amateur Night.

thing they might not be willing to show off to a larger crowd," Snow said. "It's not as spotlighted as Varieties or other talent shows because it's smaller and more personalized. It's a great way to show what students love to do in

their spare time."

UBG hopes the event will bring students together to appreciate the talents of their peers.

"Students should go because it's a great

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## O'Hara explores fantasy From Homer to Harry

BY KAETI HINCK  
MIRROR VARIETY EDITOR

Amid the hoards of fantasy novels that have saturated the market, Augustana classics and philosophy professor David O'Hara has co-written a clear and thoughtful book that navigates the sea of myth and fantasy.

Authored by O'Hara and Matthew T. Dickerson, *From Homer to Harry Potter*:

*A Handbook on Myth and Fantasy* offers an analysis of the themes and language that infiltrate and define mythical stories.

Using his experience with linguistics, O'Hara explores the stories that have shaped our common imagination.

This book is for any reader who has been captivated by the drama of *Harry Potter*, the epics of Homer and the masterful storytelling of Philip Pullman.

While the book is written with a very academic tone, the descriptions and analysis of fantasy literature will capture the attention of

anyone interested in storytelling.

Tracing the roots of fantasy to modern influences such as J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, as well as ancient Greek and Roman sources, this book offers a fairly comprehensive study of

myth.

It would be well for book-burners to put aside their torches and sit down with *From Homer to Harry Potter*. They might just reconsider the next time they want to call fantasy a genre of the devil.

The book was published by Brazos Press in early May. O'Hara currently teaches classical Greek and a number of philosophy courses.

